

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 01219 191447Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----125801 191449Z /64

O R 191414Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7490
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 1219

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORC, SF, WA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: TALKING POINTS FOR BOTHA ON TROOP LOCATION
QUESTION

REF: USUN 2537

1. WE SUGGEST THAT THE INTRODUCTORY PORTION OF THE
TALKING POINTS FOR BOTHA ON THE TROOP LOCATION ISSUE
MIGHT BE MODIFIED TO REDUCE THE RISK OF AN INTEMPERATE
AND SERIOUSLY DAMAGING REACTION EVEN BEFORE THE SUBSTANCE
OF OUR PROPOSAL ON OSHIVELLO IS REACHED. AS PRESENTLY
DRAFTED, THE TALKING POINTS TEND TO DEVELOP THE CASE
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IN A MANNER LIKELY TO AROUSE BOTHA TO A DEGREE WHICH WOULD
MAKE IT DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO UNDERSTAND AND
RATIONALLY CONSIDER WHAT IT IS WE HAVE TO SAY. THE WAY NEEDS
TO BE CAREFULLY PREPARED SO THAT BOTHA REALIZES CLEARLY AT THE
OUTSET WE ARE NOT COMING TO HIM WITH THE PROPOSITION THAT THE
SAG SHOULD ACCEED TO SWAPO'S DEMANDS ON TROOP LOCATION.

2. WITH THIS IN MIND, WE WOULD PROPOSE PICKING UP THE FIRST SENTENCE OF THE THIRD PARA OF THE CONTACT GROUP DRAFT (THE SENTENCE BEGINNING "IN ESSENCE, THEREFORE,.....) AND ADDING REASSURANCE AND CLARIFICATION ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: "WE BELIEVE THERE MAY BE A WAY OF RESOLVING THIS QUESTION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PROPOSAL AS IT STANDS. OUR PURPOSE HERE IS TO ENLIST YOUR HELP AND TO EXPLORE WITH YOU THE POSSIBLE SOLUTION WE HAVE IN MIND. KEEPING IN MIND THAT OUR OBJECTIVE TODAY IS TO WORK WITH THE PROPOSAL WHICH YOU HAVE ACCEPTED, WE WOULD FIRST LIKE TO REVIEW THE ELEMENTS WHICH MAKE THIS IMPORTANT." THE TALKING POINTS WOULD THEN CONTINUE AS DRAFTED BY THE CONTACT GROUP, THE SENTENCE BEGINNING "AS YOU KNOW, THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS...." BECOMING THE FIRST SENTENCE OF THE NEXT PARA.

3. WE ARE A BIT UNEASY WITH THE REFERENCE TO THE CAPRIVI BUILD-UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CONTACT GROUP'S THIRD PARA. SO LONG AS THAT BUILD-UP CAN BE DESCRIBED AS DEFENSIVE, IT IS NOT EXACTLY IN THE SAME CATEGORY AS THE OTHER HARMFUL ACTIONS CITED. THE SOUTH AFRICANS WILL CONSIDER IT AS YET ANOTHER UNREASONABLE AND UNREALISTIC DEMAND BY THE FIVE THAT THEY NOT TAKE STEPS TO DEFEND THE AREA UNDER THEIR CONTROL AGAINST SWAPO MILITARY INCURSIONS. IT ADDS A CONTENTIOUS ELEMENT WHICH WILL TEND TO CLOUD AND DETRACT FROM THE PURPOSES OF OUR APPROACH.

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4. WE WOULD ALSO SUGGEST THAT, HAVING MADE THE POINT ABOUT THE CENTRAL ROLE OF CASSINGA, IT SEEMS UNNECESSARY TO RISK A REPETITIVE IRRITANT BY REFERRING TO IT AGAIN IN THE FINAL SENTENCE OF THE THIRD PARA OF THE CONTACT GROUP'S DRAFT. THE SENTENCE WOULD PROBABLY BE MORE EFFECTIVE IF IT READ SIMPLY, "IT IS OUR JUDGMENT THAT IT IS NOW NECESSARY TO MAKE SOME GESTURE TO CLOSE THE NARROW GAP SEPARATING US FROM AGREEMENT." EDMONDSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAPET01219
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780255-0189
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780645/aaaabnes.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b8044186-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 USUN NEW YORK 2537
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2303399
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: TALKING POINTS FOR BOTHA ON TROOP LOCATION QUESTION
TAGS: PORG, MILI, SF, WA
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b8044186-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014